Keeping Up... With Youth

by Pamela Swift

Kissinger Poll

While Henry Kissinger, the President's national security adviser, was in China last month finalizing arrangements for Mr. Nixon's trip to Peking, PARADE conducted a poll on the Harvard University campus.

We asked 133 students, upper and lower division undergraduates randomly selected in three dormitories, the following question:

Q. "Only he finishes his government service, would you want Dr. Henry Kissinger to return to Harvard as a professor?"

Here are the findings:

Yes—37 percent

No—40 percent

Don't care—23 percent

Those who said "yes," generally based their opinions on the principle of academic freedom, stating that Harvard must offer a free forum for divergent points of view. Others said that Kissinger was an outstanding professor of government when he taught at Harvard and that a man of his expertise should be allowed to return no matter how he felt or advised the President on the Vietnamese war. They realized, they said, that Kissinger had lost his tenure but they would welcome him back at Harvard, "because he is, after all, a man of scholarship and learning."

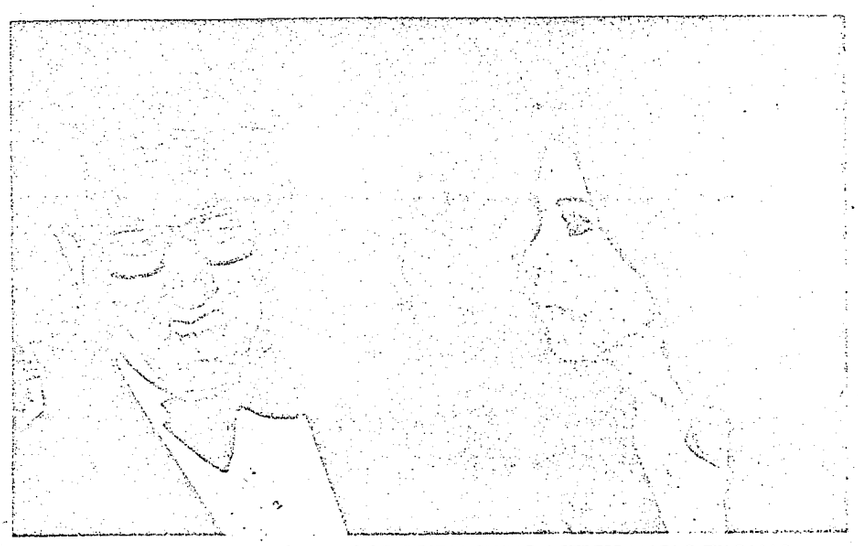
Those students who did not want Kissinger to return to Harvard were more volatile in their explanations. They accused him of widening the war, of advising the President to invade Cambodia and Laos. They accused him of a "Fascist mentality," of being "power-hungry," of "doing little or nothing to stop the bombing, the bloodletting, and the killing in Vietnam since he went to work for Nixon."

Those students who said they didn't care whether or not Kissinger returned to Harvard based their indifference on indecision. "I can't make up my mind about him . . . I don't think his presence on the campus by 1973 would cause any protest . . . I don't like him but he has great credentials, real experience in government, so I guess he can be a valuable teacher. On the other hand he would be controversial and students would equate him with war not peace . . . I don't particularly want him back, but his presence on campus would not disturb me."

Until he entered the White House in the Nixon Administration, Kissinger was an academician, his entire teaching career having been spent at Harvard. When early this year he decided to remain with Nixon, he resigned his appointment and thereby lost his tenure.

Harvard, therefore, is under no obligation to take him back although an understanding exists that it will until January, 1973.

In that sense, Kissinger is far better off than was Walt Rostow, Lyndon Johnson's war adviser who, unacceptable at MIT from where he came, had to end up at the University of Texas. Dean Rusk, Lyndon Johnson's Secretary of State, was also unacceptable by Ivy League colleges and finally found a safe harbor at the University of Georgia.



HENRY KISSINGER IN HOLLYWOOD RESEARCHING ACTRESS MARLO THOMAS.